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Security Council

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Resolution 2166 (2014)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 7221st meeting, on 21 July 2014

The Security Council,

Deploring the downing of a civilian aircraft on an international flight, Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, on 17 July in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, with the loss of all 298 passengers and crew on board,

Reaffirming the rules of international law that prohibit acts of violence that pose a threat to the safety of international civil aviation and emphasizing the importance of holding those responsible for violations of these rules to account,

Recalling its press statement of 18 July 2014,

Stressing the need for a full, thorough and independent international investigation into the incident in accordance with international civil aviation guidelines, *noting* in this regard the crucial role played by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in aircraft accident and incident investigations, and *welcoming* the decision by ICAO to send a team to work in coordination with the Ukrainian National Bureau of Incidents and Accidents Investigation of Civil Aircraft in this investigation, following a request for assistance by Ukraine to ICAO and others,

Expressing serious concern that armed groups in Ukraine have impeded immediate, safe, secure and unrestricted access to the crash site and the surrounding area for the appropriate investigating authorities, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and representatives of other relevant international organizations assisting the investigation in accordance with ICAO and other established procedures,

1. *Condemns* in the strongest terms the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 on 17 July in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine resulting in the tragic loss of 298 lives;

2. *Reiterates* its deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of the victims of this incident and to the people and governments of the victims' countries of origin;

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3. *Supports* efforts to establish a full, thorough and independent international investigation into the incident in accordance with international civil aviation guidelines;

4. *Recognizes* the efforts under way by Ukraine, working in coordination with ICAO and other international experts and organizations, including representatives of States of Occurrence, Registry, Operator, Design and Manufacture, as well as States who have lost nationals on MH17, to institute an international investigation of the incident, and *calls on* all States to provide any requested assistance to civil and criminal investigations related to this incident;

5. *Expresses grave concern* at reports of insufficient and limited access to the crash site;

6. *Demands* that the armed groups in control of the crash site and the surrounding area refrain from any actions that may compromise the integrity of the crash site, including by refraining from destroying, moving, or disturbing wreckage, equipment, debris, personal belongings, or remains, and immediately provide safe, secure, full and unrestricted access to the site and surrounding area for the appropriate investigating authorities, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and representatives of other relevant international organizations according to ICAO and other established procedures;

7. *Demands* that all military activities, including by armed groups, be immediately ceased in the immediate area surrounding the crash site to allow for security and safety of the international investigation;

8. *Insists* on the dignified, respectful and professional treatment and recovery of the bodies of the victims, and *calls upon* all parties to ensure that this happens with immediate effect;

9. *Calls* on all States and actors in the region to cooperate fully in relation to the international investigation of the incident, including with respect to immediate and unrestricted access to the crash site as referred to in paragraph 6;

10. *Welcomes* in this regard the statement on 17 July 2014 by the Trilateral Contact Group of senior representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the OSCE and demands that the commitments outlined in that statement be implemented in full;

11. *Demands* that those responsible for this incident be held to account and that all States cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability;

12. *Urges* all parties to the Convention on International Civil Aviation to observe to the fullest extent applicable, the international rules, standards and practices concerning the safety of civil aviation, in order to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, and *demands* that all States and other actors refrain from acts of violence directed against civilian aircraft;

13. *Welcomes* the full cooperation of the United Nations offered by the Secretary-General in this investigation, and *requests* the Secretary-General to identify possible options for United Nations support to the investigation and to report to the Security Council on relevant developments;

14. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.